



Program Criteria Comparison



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK and VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

National Environmental Performance Track and Virginia Environmental Excellence are voluntary programs designed to foster and reward environmental excellence. Performance Track is a national EPA program and Environmental Excellence is a statewide Department of Environmental Quality program. This fact sheet summarizes and compares criteria for the Performance Track Program and the Exemplary Environmental Enterprise (E3) level of the Environmental Excellence Program (the program has two levels: E2 and E3). For additional information on these programs or incentives, see program web sites or contact program coordinators.

Common Program Criteria:

- *EMS Components:* Common elements include: an EMS with a written policy; planned targets and goals; clear roles and responsibilities for meeting goals; plans for checking and correcting non-conformance issues; and documented management review.
- *EMS Self-Assessment:* Facility is expected to conduct regular EMS self-assessments and compliance audits.
- *EMS Cycle:* Facility must have fully implemented EMS.
- *Past Performance:* Facility must have demonstrated past performance.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make commitments to performance improvement associated with significant environmental impacts and pollution prevention activities.
- *Annual Report:* Report must include EMS data, documentation that corrective action has been taken to address compliance and other EMS issues, and progress towards meeting goals.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must provide a plan to identify and respond to local concerns and inform community of important matters that affect it.
- *Compliance Record:* Facility must pass a comprehensive compliance screen covering federal, state, and local regulations.
- *Site Visits:* Periodic site visits are conducted as part of the program.
- *Membership Term:* Membership is for three years.

Environmental Excellence Program - Exemplary Environmental Enterprise (E3) Level - Additional Criteria:

- *Pollution Prevention Program:* Facility must have fully implemented pollution prevention program.
- *Annual Report:* Facility must show that EMS is updated and improved each year.
- *Site Visits:* Application review often includes site visit.

Performance Track - Additional Criteria:

- *EMS Independent Assessment:* An independent EMS assessment is to have taken place at the time of application.
- *EMS Cycle:* Facility must have completed one full EMS cycle including implementation, evaluation, and review.
- *Past Performance:* Facility must demonstrate performance improvements for two environmental indicators (one indicator for small facilities). Commitments must be reported in a standard format and performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a commitment to future performance improvements for four environmental indicators from at least two unique categories (two indicators for small facilities). Commitments must be reported in a standard format and performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- *Community References:* Facility must provide community references (e.g., member of a citizen group, union, local agency).
- *Self-Certification:* Senior facility manager must certify that all statements in application and annual reports are true, accurate, and complete.

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